

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 208

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RUPP.

Read 1st time January 15, 2009, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1025S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to teacher certification for part-time teachers.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows:

168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the
2 state shall be granted as follows:

3 (1) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it:

4 (a) Upon the basis of college credit;

5 (b) Upon the basis of examination;

6 (2) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the state
7 board with advice from the advisory council established by section 168.015 to any
8 individual who presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an
9 accredited institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting
10 association such as North Central Association. Such certificate shall be limited
11 to the major area of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be issued only after
12 successful completion of the examination required for graduation pursuant to
13 rules adopted by the state board of education, and shall be restricted to those
14 certificates established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section;

15 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate
16 classification in both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with
17 the current areas of certification approved by the state board, commensurate with
18 the years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the following
19 criteria:

20 (a) Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher

21 preparation program;

22 (b) Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit
23 assessment for teachers or administrators designated by the state board of
24 education. Applicants who have not successfully achieved a qualifying score on
25 the designated examinations will be issued a two-year nonrenewable provisional
26 certificate; and

27 (c) Upon completion of a background check and possession of a valid
28 teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's teacher preparation
29 program was completed; or

30 (4) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on
31 the basis of certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher
32 Excellence (ABCTE) and verification of ability to work with children as
33 demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one of the following areas as validated
34 by the school principal: sixty contact hours in the classroom, of which at least
35 forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at
36 least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of
37 teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a
38 paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE certificate of license to teach,
39 except that such certificate shall not be granted for the areas of early childhood
40 education, elementary education, or special education. Upon the completion of
41 the requirements listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision, an
42 applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate
43 under subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section:

44 (a) Completion of thirty contact hours of professional development within
45 four years, which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college
46 curriculum;

47 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program of the
48 American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence or a district mentoring
49 program approved by the state board of education;

50 (c) Attainment of a successful performance-based teacher evaluation; and

51 (d) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program;

52 **(5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by**
53 **it, on the basis of a relevant bachelor's degree, or higher degree, for**
54 **individuals whose academic degree and professional experience are**
55 **suitable to provide a basis for instruction. Such certificate shall be**
56 **limited to the major area of study and professional experience of the**

57 **holder. Holders of certificates granted under this subdivision shall:**

58 **(a) Have at least five years of gainful employment and**
59 **professional experience in the subject area or field in which they would**
60 **teach at the time of receipt of the certificate;**

61 **(b) Be limited to no more than ten hours per week of instruction**
62 **time;**

63 **(c) Be limited to instruction in one subject area;**

64 **(d) Be exempt from the provisions of subsection 3 of this section.**

65 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board
66 policies and regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the
67 professional development requirements of this section and shall continue in effect
68 until they expire, are revoked or suspended, as provided by law. When such
69 certificates are required to be renewed, the state board or its designee shall grant
70 to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly equivalent to the
71 one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II, or
72 continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of his or her current
73 certificate, be issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the
74 classification system established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

75 3. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall
76 be based upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of
77 education. The state board shall provide for the following levels of professional
78 certification: an initial professional certificate and a career continuous
79 professional certificate.

80 (1) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of
81 requirements established by the state board of education and shall be valid based
82 upon verification of actual teaching within a specified time period established by
83 the state board of education. The state board shall require holders of the
84 four-year initial professional certificate to:

85 (a) Participate in a mentoring program approved and provided by the
86 district for a minimum of two years;

87 (b) Complete thirty contact hours of professional development, which may
88 include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum; and

89 (c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program;

90 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon
91 verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional
92 certificate and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated

93 in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or paragraphs
94 (a), (b), (c), and (d) of subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section.

95 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous
96 based upon verification of actual employment in an educational position as
97 provided for in state board guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of
98 professional development per year which may include hours spent in class in an
99 appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of a valid career continuous
100 professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour
101 professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make
102 up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall
103 first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may
104 count hours in excess of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should
105 the possessor fail to make up the missing hours within two years, the certificate
106 shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the possessor shall
107 complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may
108 include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within
109 the six months prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate. The
110 requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local school
111 district which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

112 (c) A holder of a career continuous professional certificate shall be exempt
113 from the professional development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of
114 this subdivision if such teacher has a local professional development plan in place
115 within such teacher's school district and meets two of the three following criteria:

116 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of
117 education;

118 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

119 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board
120 of education.

121 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who
122 was not retained due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of
123 certification. There shall also be established policies and procedures allowing a
124 teacher who has not been employed in an educational position for three years or
125 more to reactivate his or her last level of certification by completing twenty-four
126 contact hours of professional development which may include hours spent in the
127 classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or
128 after reactivating his or her certificate.

129 5. The state board shall, upon an appropriate background check, issue a
130 professional certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an
131 applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of
132 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a
133 public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from
134 another state, provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the
135 state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish
136 policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be
137 assessed a fee for a certificate license to teach in the public schools of
138 Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs
139 associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach. The board shall
140 promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional certificate of license,
141 which shall allow the holder to assume classroom duties pending the completion
142 of a criminal background check under section 168.133, for any applicant who:

- 143 (1) Is the spouse of a member of the armed forces stationed in Missouri;
144 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of
145 application;
146 (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be issued a
147 teaching certificate of license from another state; and
148 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

149 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional
150 certificate a fee, to be deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund
151 established pursuant to section 160.268, RSMo, for the issuance of the career
152 continuous professional certificate. However, such fee shall not exceed the
153 combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as a
154 condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be
155 responsible for any fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of
156 the certificate, but nothing in this section shall prohibit a district from developing
157 a policy that permits fee reimbursement.

158 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who
159 entered covered employment with ten or more years of educational experience in
160 another state or states and held a certificate issued by another state and
161 subsequently worked in a school district covered by the public school retirement
162 system of Missouri for ten or more years who later became certificated in
163 Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to his or her original date of
164 employment in a Missouri public school.

165 8. The provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, as well
166 as any other provision of this section relating to the American Board for
167 Certification of Teacher Excellence, shall terminate on August 28, 2014.

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